

House File 2538 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2538
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2215)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to legislative and congressional redistricting
2 concerning the duties of the temporary redistricting
3 advisory commission.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 42.3, subsection 2, Code 2022, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 2. If the bill embodying the plan submitted by the
4 legislative services agency under [subsection 1](#) fails to be
5 enacted, the legislative services agency shall prepare a bill
6 embodying a second plan of legislative and congressional
7 districting. The bill shall be prepared in accordance with
8 section 42.4, and, insofar as it is possible to do so within
9 the requirements of [section 42.4](#), with the reasons cited by
10 the senate or house of representatives by resolution, or the
11 governor by veto message, for the failure to approve the plan.
12 If a second plan is required under [this subsection](#), the bill
13 embodying it shall be delivered to the secretary of the senate
14 and the chief clerk of the house of representatives not later
15 than thirty-five days after the date of the vote by which the
16 senate or the house of representatives fails to approve the
17 bill submitted under [subsection 1](#), or the date the governor
18 vetoes or fails to approve the bill. If it is necessary to
19 submit a bill under [this subsection](#), the bill shall be brought
20 to a vote not less than ~~seven days after the bill is submitted~~
21 three days after the report of the commission required by
22 section 42.6 is received and made available to the members of
23 the general assembly, under a procedure or rule permitting no
24 amendments except those of a purely corrective nature. It
25 is further the intent of [this chapter](#) that if the bill is
26 approved by the first house in which it is considered, it
27 shall expeditiously be brought to a vote in the second house
28 under a similar procedure or rule. If the bill embodying the
29 plan submitted by the legislative services agency under this
30 subsection fails to be approved by a constitutional majority
31 in either the senate or the house of representatives, the
32 secretary of the senate or the chief clerk of the house, as the
33 case may be, shall transmit to the legislative services agency
34 in the same manner as described in [subsection 1](#), information
35 which the senate or house may direct by resolution regarding

1 reasons why the plan was not approved.

2 Sec. 2. Section 42.6, subsection 3, Code 2022, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 3. Upon the delivery by the legislative services agency to
5 the general assembly of a bill embodying ~~an initial~~ a plan of
6 congressional and legislative redistricting, as required by
7 section 42.3, ~~subsection 1~~, the commission shall:

8 a. As expeditiously as reasonably possible, allow public
9 comment and schedule and conduct at least three public
10 hearings, in a manner that allows participation by Iowans from
11 different geographic regions of the state, on the plan embodied
12 in the bill delivered by the legislative services agency to the
13 general assembly. The commission shall schedule and conduct at
14 least three public hearings on an initial plan of congressional
15 and legislative redistricting, and shall schedule and conduct
16 at least one public hearing on a second or third plan of
17 congressional and legislative redistricting, if applicable.

18 b. Following the hearings, promptly prepare and submit to
19 the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house a
20 report summarizing information and testimony received by the
21 commission in the course of the hearings. The commission's
22 report shall include any comments and conclusions which its
23 members deem appropriate on the information and testimony
24 received at the hearings, or otherwise presented to the
25 commission. The report shall be submitted no later than
26 fourteen days after the date the bill embodying ~~an initial~~
27 a plan of congressional and legislative redistricting is
28 delivered to the general assembly.

29

EXPLANATION

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill concerns the duties of the temporary redistricting
33 advisory commission following the delivery of a plan of
34 legislative and congressional redistricting to the general
35 assembly by the legislative services agency. Under current

1 law, the commission is only required to conduct three public
2 hearings and issue a report following submission of the initial
3 plan of redistricting by the legislative services agency. The
4 bill requires the commission to conduct at least one public
5 hearing and issue a report following submission of a second or
6 third plan, if necessary, by the legislative services agency.
7 The bill requires the commission to allow public comment as
8 part of the public hearing process and provides that the public
9 hearings be conducted in a manner that allows for participation
10 by Iowans from different geographic regions of the state.
11 The bill requires that a vote on a second or third plan of
12 redistricting must take place no less than three days after the
13 report of the commission is submitted to the general assembly
14 for that plan.